

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus generates identifiers of database records apart from the database. One or more application programs may request an identifier of a transaction, and a stored identifier of a prior transaction is incremented or otherwise altered to produce the identifier of the transaction. The identifier is provided to the application program, which uses it as an identifier of a record of a database if such a record is created. If a system failure occurs, the database is scanned to identify the most recently issued identifier stored in the database, for example by requesting from the database the highest transaction number stored, and that number is used to generate the next transaction number.